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# MONTANA LABOR MARKET

Monthly Review of  
EMPLOYMENT OUTLOOK, LABOR SUPPLY, LABOR DEMAND, CURRENT EMPLOYMENT  
MONTANA STATE EMPLOYMENT SERVICE

Division of Employment Security Commission of Montana

Gordon R. Bennett, Chairman

James J. Flaherty, Commissioner

ESC Building—P.O. Box 1728—Helena, Montana

Walter H. McLeod, Commissioner

FL 292

HELENA INDEPENDENT RECORD  
HELENA, MONTANA

DECEMBER, 1969

## EARLY WINTER JOB TOTAL 1,800 ABOVE LAST YEAR

**1969 MONTHLY JOB TOTALS SET NEW RECORDS**—Non-farm employment in Montana was at record levels for ten of the past eleven months. The one exception was the wet month of June with a job total 400 under the June 1968 figure. The employment peak for the year was reached in August with 206,500 workers on non-farm payrolls. This was 500 above the previous high established in August 1968 and the highest monthly job figure ever achieved in Montana. There were 197,200 workers on November non-farm payrolls, 1,800 more than the same month last year. Average monthly employment for this year should be 1,000 or more over the 1968 average of 194,800.

**FIVE INDUSTRIES ABOVE LAST YEAR**—The service industries, up 1,500 from November 1968 job totals, led a list of five with more employment this November than last. There were 800 more workers on trade payrolls this November. Mining and finance insurance and real estate were each 300 above last year. Construction jobs were up by a moderate 100. Employment declines from a year ago occurred in manufacturing, down 600; transportation, communications and utilities, down 300; and government, down 300.

**SEASONAL CHANGES AFFECT MOST INDUSTRY GROUPS**—An over-the-month job decline from October to

November this year trimmed 2,600 workers from seven major industry groups. A 900 drop in government jobs was at the head of the list. Other declines were in this order: construction, down 400; service industries, down 400; manufacturing, down 300; trade, down 300; transportation, communications and utilities, down 200; and mining, down, 100. Finance, insurance and real estate, with 7,900 employed, did not change from the October total.

**LABOR SUPPLY INCREASING**—The 4,600 unemployed workers who registered for jobs with the state's 23 local employment offices during November brought the statewide labor supply to 10,659. This was 1,200 above the November 1968 total. Most of the new unemployment during the month came from workers furloughed from construction and other outdoor industries. Included in the current labor supply are persons who seek temporary work during the holiday season. The labor supply will reach a peak of 14,000 in January, 1970.

**FOREST, PARK, AND FARM WORK COMPLETED**—Seasonal job declines in the Christmas tree harvest, the forest and irrigation services, and in national parks were common in November. Sugar beet refining operations continue at Billings, Hardin, and Sidney with about 800 employed. Farm labor demand throughout the state was receding. The need for livestock feeders

was held back by fair weather. Light demand existed for general farm and ranch hands.

**INDIAN RECRUITMENT IN PROGRESS**—Recruitment efforts to enlist Indians for training and job placement on the AVCO project at Glasgow Air Force Base, and for training at the Northwest Indian Manpower Skills Center at Ronan is now in progress. The AVCO center provides orientation, basic education, vocational and on-the-job training, work experience, and job placement as well as family living training and services. More than 600 people are now working at the base. Previous manpower development training programs provided some of these employees. Nearly seventy percent of the trainees were Indians who are now employed by AVCO in manufacturing, in the operation and maintenance of the base, and in office work.

The skill center at Ronan is designed to serve single unemployed males of Indian ancestry and reservation enrollees as well as landless Indians. It provides basic education and occupational skills training. Enrollees are paid an allowance while in training and furnished room and board. Upon completion of training, the responsibility for job development and placement is with the Montana State Employment Service. About 70 Indians are now enrolled at the center which has a capacity for 200.

### LABOR TURNOVER RATES IN MANUFACTURING AND MINING INDUSTRIES

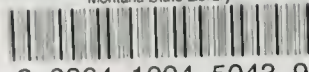
(per 100 employees)

(Compiled in cooperation with U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics)

INDUSTRY	ACCESSION RATE						SEPARATION RATE								
	Total			New Hire			Total			Quit			Layoff		
	Oct. 1969	Sept. 1969	Oct. 1968	Oct. 1969	Sept. 1969	Oct. 1968	Oct. 1969	Sept. 1969	Oct. 1968	Oct. 1969	Sept. 1969	Oct. 1968	Oct. 1969	Sept. 1969	Oct. 1968
All Manufacturing	4.2	5.1	4.1	3.8	4.6	3.9	4.7	9.3	5.6	2.5	6.5	2.6	1.1	1.2	1.4
Durable Goods	4.9	6.7	5.3	4.7	6.0	5.1	6.1	11.2	6.6	3.3	8.5	3.0	1.3	.8	1.3
Primary Metal	4.2	5.8	4.8	3.9	3.9	4.6	5.4	15.7	5.2	2.2	11.3	1.6	*	*	*
Nondurable Goods	2.7	1.7	1.6	2.0	1.7	1.6	1.6	5.0	3.6	.8	2.3	1.9	.7	2.1	1.5
All Mining	3.4	3.8	4.2	2.1	2.7	3.0	2.8	3.6	5.8	1.2	2.9	3.7	.3	.1	1.2
Metal Mining	4.0	5.8	3.0	1.9	4.1	1.0	3.7	5.0	1.4	1.6	4.3	1.0	.1	*	.1

\*Less than .05





**Along the Hiring Line—  
Field Summary for November**

**ANACONDA, Deer Lodge, Philipsburg**—Economic structure of city continues to expand paced by smelter operations at full capacity. Most industry groups show improvement over last year. Some new commercial building underway; work on senior citizens home next on agenda. Unemployment claims up over last year with most from mining and construction layoffs.

**BILLINGS, Columbus, Laurel, Red Lodge, Roundup**—Labor market trends on good stable basis with construction and other outdoor work at good force due to favorable weather. Highway project job totals still near the 350 mark. Some construction layoffs resulted with work nearing completion on some major building projects. Labor shortages included mechanics and some service industry occupations. Farm labor demand diminished but shortages of farm couples existed.

**BOZEMAN, Ennis, Three Forks, Trident**—Work on nearly \$7 million in construction continues as weather allows. Active projects include city sewage system, university science building, hospital addition, classroom expansion at Three Forks high school. About 230 men employed in three lumber mills in area. Trade employment at high levels but with little new hiring.

**BUTTE, Virginia City, Whitehall**—Labor supply increased as workers registered for seasonal jobs during the holiday season. Others sought opportunities available under federal manpower training programs. Upswing in metal mining created more demand for experienced hard rock miners. Demand for heavy duty mechanics was also evident. No demand for farm labor.

**CUT BANK**—Seasonal layoffs, most forceful in construction, accounted for rise of 129 in-work applications from October. Oil field work and agriculture down seasonally as winter season approaches. Total jobseekers of 487 included 107 women.

**DILLON**—Work in good agenda of building and highway projects made good progress during November. Small mining and milling operations appear upward bound with renovation and expansion, now employing eight with potential of 40. Surplus of ranch hands waiting for winter feeding jobs to develop.

**GLASGOW, Fort Peck, Malta, Opheim**—A few construction layoffs noted

**MONTANA CIVILIAN WORK FORCE**

(In Thousands)

	Nov '69	Oct. '69	Nov. '68	Oct. '69 to Nov. '69	Nov. '68 to Nov. '69
Civilian Work Force					
Total Employment	269.5	270.7	268.4	-1.2	1.1
Total Non-agricultural Employment	257.0	261.3	255.6	-4.3	1.4
(Non-agricultural Wage & Salary*	226.3	229.0	225.1	-2.7	1.2
Total Agriculture Employment	197.2	199.8	195.4	-2.6	1.8
Labor Management Disputes	30.7	32.3	30.5	-1.6	.2
Total Unemployment	.0	.0	.1	—	—1
Percent Unemployed	12.5	9.4	12.7	3.1	-2
U.S. Unemployment Rate	4.6	3.5	4.7	—	—
	3.3	3.5	3.3	—	—

\*1969 Benchmarks

but most projects kept active with but minor interruptions during periods of bad weather. Trade employment exceeded year ago totals and demand continued for waitresses, maids, and related occupations. Hiring by AVCO at Glasgow Air Base mainly for replacements and a few particular skills.

**GLENDIVE, Circle, Wibaux**—All interstate highway work in area now completed. Building construction crews kept working aided by favorable weather. Work on two motels expected to start early in 1970. Oil field work stays steady with frequent labor turnover. Trade employment expanding with holiday season. Students working on farm jobs during week-end.

**GREAT FALLS, Choteau, Fort Benton, Stanford**—Job placements up 64% from year ago with most of the gain in manufacturing, trade, and the service industries. Hiring trends in these industries should remain strong until year's end. Building permits so far this year near the \$13 million mark. Some seasonal downturn now showing in construction and other outdoor work. Farm labor demand fair.

**HAMILTON, Stevensville**—Seasonal layoffs of forest service personnel, road construction workers, and furlough of lumber mill workers in Darby area created most of new unemployment during November. Trade employment chalked up some gains. Some activity in potato cellars for sorting and shipping operations.

**HAVRE, Chinook, Harlem**—Employment in most industries holding up well for early winter season. Job placements above last year due mainly to increased oil exploration and construction. Extra trade hiring for holiday season edging upward. Seasonal job

declines will become more evident at year's end.

**HELENA, Boulder, Garrison, Townsend, White Sulphur Springs**—Job totals in construction, trade, and service industries held firm during November. A 33% increase in job placements over the same month last year was mainly in construction and service. Completion of some small projects idled a few workers. No significant labor shortages at present. Fairly active farm labor demand existed.

**KALISPELL, Columbia Falls, Whitefish**—Libby Dam layoffs and release of federal workers for the season were main factors in increased labor surplus during November. Worker surpluses include carpenters, painters, electricians, ironworkers, cooks, and waitresses. Jobs in Christmas tree harvest were 20% above last year. Logging and lumber mill activity kept a steady pace.

**LEWISTOWN, Harlowton, Ryegate, Winnett**—Job placements in industry and farm are up moderately from last year. Construction activity reduced by completion of work on missile sites. Job losses have been offset somewhat by building and road projects active in the area. Moderate demand for farm workers which will increase with colder weather and need for livestock feeders.

**LIBBY**—Libby Dam work force reduced by 450, leaving total employment at 1,250, a figure which will drop to about 700 by year's end. Some of the idled workers left to seek jobs in other states. Demand for main street workers was fair, with most demand for cooks and waitresses. Good job totals maintained in lumber industry.

**LIVINGSTON, Big Timber**—Job totals starting to recede in line with winter season. Closure of Yellowstone

**TEN YEARS OF MONTANA INDUSTRIAL EMPLOYMENT TOTALS BY MONTHS (in Thousands)**

	Jan.	Feb.	March	April	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Aver.
1959	155.3	153.2	155.9	162.2	167.5	174.0	177.5	179.2	169.9	165.6	161.5	159.4	165.1
1960	152.7	152.5	156.1	163.5	168.4	175.8	176.9	177.7	174.8	171.6	167.5	164.5	166.8
1961	156.9	154.8	156.1	160.2	165.1	173.3	176.0	178.1	176.8	172.4	169.0	162.2	167.1
1962	158.3	158.2	159.6	166.2	172.4	180.1	180.5	181.2	178.6	176.6	175.1	173.5	171.7
1963	163.9	163.0	165.0	170.2	175.1	181.0	182.3	183.8	181.5	179.7	176.6	173.6	174.6
1964	166.2	164.3	165.1	169.1	174.2	182.4	185.5	187.2	184.9	182.2	178.4	175.4	176.2
1965	167.9	167.4	168.9	174.4	179.8	188.7	189.6	192.1	189.9	188.1	185.3	183.6	181.3
1966	173.9	172.6	174.2	180.2	185.4	195.6	198.2	199.2	195.8	191.2	187.6	186.9	186.7
1967	179.9	178.5	180.1	184.7	188.1	199.1	201.1	197.8	196.3	193.7	192.2	191.0	189.9
1968	181.6	181.4	183.6	189.9	195.2	203.6	203.5	206.0	203.5	198.1	195.4	195.2	194.8
1969	186.1	186.3	188.1	191.5	196.4	203.2	204.2	206.5	203.6	199.8	197.2		

\*Preliminary Estimate—Employment estimates for 1968 and 1969 revised on basis of more complete reports. Industrial detail from Jan. 1968 to date will be supplied in future supplement to this publication.



**ESTIMATED EMPLOYMENT IN NON-AGRICULTURAL INDUSTRIES IN MONTANA (1)**

(Compiled in co-operation with United States Bureau of Labor Statistics)

**Along the Hiring Line—  
Field Summary for November**

National Park furloughed seasonal employees with only maintenance and transportation workers remaining. Logging and lumbering on unsteady schedules due to log shortages and a quiet market. Mild weather reduced demand for ranch workers.

**MILES CITY, Baker, Broadus, Ekalaka, Jordan, Terry**—Industry employment was at near record for November. Good schedule of highway work the main factor in increased job totals. Big upsurge in labor supply as seasonal workers registered for holiday work. Good seasonal demand on the farm front.

**MISSOULA, Arlee, Drummond, Superior**—Good trends in manufacturing and trade industries highlighted labor market activity in November. Some railroad hiring for track repair crews in evidence. Seasonal slowdown in construction created most new unemployment. Hiring of extra workers for holiday trade season at good pace. Farm labor demand edging upward.

**POLSON**—Most business indicators optimistic despite current slowdown in lumber industry. Production at plywood mill reduced to one shift with other mills also cutting back due to log surpluses and depressed market prices. Farm labor demand on the slow side.

**SHELBY**—Layoffs in construction and other outdoor activities were common throughout the month. No improvement in outdoor job opportunities expected until spring when work on the ABM complex is anticipated. Some return in trade employment expected for holiday season. Little demand for farm workers; winter wheat seeding completed, and no need for livestock feeders during good weather.

**SIDNEY**—Unemployment at low figure as brisk economy provides good job opportunities. Several construction projects already closed in will work throughout the winter. Sugar beet harvest completed with good yields.

**THOMPSON FALLS, Hot Springs**—A poor lumber market tended to depress other industry groups and kept hiring at minimum during November. Forest service personnel furloughed until next season. Main street jobs hold close to seasonal levels. Practically no farm labor demand.

**WOLF POINT, Plentywood, Scobey**—Construction job losses came from a completed highway project and the closure of another until next spring. Some building projects continue as weather permits. Trade and service jobs on par with past years with holiday demand mainly for sales clerks. Oil drilling up with placement of four rigs on locations.

INDUSTRY	EMPLOYMENT			Net Change	
	Nov. 1969 (2)	Oct. 1969 (3)	Nov. 1968	Oct. '69 to Nov. '69	Nov. '68 Against Nov. '69
<b>NON-AGRICULTURAL INDUSTRIES</b>	197.2	199.8	195.4	-2,600	1,800
<b>Manufacturing</b> .....	24.0	24.3	24.6	- 300	- 600
Durable goods.....	15.2	15.5	16.1	- 300	- 900
Lumber and timber products.....	8.7	8.9	9.0	- 200	- 300
Primary metals.....	4.3	4.3	4.6	00	- 300
Other (2).....	2.2	2.3	2.5	- 100	- 300
Nondurable goods.....	8.8	8.8	8.5	00	300
Food and kindred products.....	4.8	4.9	4.6	- 100	200
Printing and publishing.....	1.8	1.8	1.8	00	00
Petroleum refining.....	1.0	1.0	1.0	00	00
Other (3).....	1.2	1.1	1.1	100	100
<b>Mining</b> .....	6.4	6.5	6.1	- 100	300
Metal mining.....	3.6	3.6	2.8	00	800
Coal, quarrying and nonmetallic.....	.7	.8	.9	- 100	- 200
Petroleum-natural gas production.....	2.1	2.1	2.4	00	- 300
<b>Contract Construction</b> .....	11.3	11.7	11.2	- 400	100
Contractors, building construction.....	2.3	2.4	2.6	- 100	- 300
Contractors, other than building.....	5.4	5.7	4.8	- 300	600
Contractors, special trade.....	3.6	3.6	3.8	00	- 200
<b>Transportation and utilities</b> .....	17.3	17.5	17.6	- 200	- 300
Interstate railroads.....	6.7	6.8	6.7	- 100	00
Transportation except railroads.....	4.6	4.7	4.7	- 100	- 100
Utilities including communication.....	6.0	6.0	6.2	00	- 200
<b>Trade</b> .....	46.5	46.8	45.7	- 300	800
Wholesale trade.....	9.3	9.3	9.4	00	- 100
Retail trade.....	37.2	37.5	36.3	- 300	900
General merchandise and apparel.....	6.9	6.8	7.0	100	- 100
Food and liquor stores.....	5.5	5.5	5.2	00	300
Eating and drinking establishments.....	9.4	9.7	9.0	- 300	400
Automotive and filling stations.....	7.9	8.0	7.8	- 100	100
Retail trade not elsewhere classified.....	7.5	7.5	7.3	00	200
<b>Finance, insurance and real estate</b> .....	7.9	7.9	7.6	00	300
<b>Services and miscellaneous</b> .....	31.7	32.1	30.2	- 400	1,500
Hotels, rooming houses, camps, etc.....	3.5	3.8	3.2	- 300	300
Personal services.....	2.2	2.2	2.4	00	- 200
Other (4).....	26.0	26.1	24.6	- 100	1,400
<b>Government</b> .....	52.1	53.0	52.4	- 900	- 300
Federal.....	10.7	11.1	11.4	- 400	- 700
State and local.....	41.4	41.9	41.0	- 500	400
<b>Great Falls Area (Cascade County)</b>					
Non-Agri. Total.....	24.6	24.7	24.1	- 100	500
Manufacturing.....	2.9	2.9	3.2	00	- 300
Contract construction.....	2.1	2.1	2.1	00	00
Transportation and utilities.....	2.2	2.2	2.0	00	200
Trade (retail and wholesale).....	6.3	6.3	6.1	00	200
Finance, insurance & real estate.....	1.4	1.4	1.4	00	00
Service and miscellaneous (5).....	4.8	4.9	4.5	- 100	300
Government.....	4.9	4.9	4.8	00	100
<b>Billings Area (Yellowstone County)</b>					
Non-Agri. Total.....	28.0	28.4	27.6	- 400	400
Manufacturing.....	3.2	3.4	3.3	- 200	- 100
Contract construction.....	1.5	1.5	1.4	00	100
Transportation and Utilities.....	2.9	2.9	2.8	00	100
Trade (retail and wholesale).....	8.8	8.8	8.8	00	00
Finance, insurance & real estate.....	1.5	1.5	1.4	00	100
Service and miscellaneous (5).....	5.2	5.3	5.2	- 100	00
Government.....	4.9	5.0	4.7	- 100	200

(1) Estimates include all full and part-time wage and salary workers who worked or received pay during the pay period ending nearest the 15th of the month. Proprietors, firm members, personnel of the armed forces, domestic servants, and self-employed persons are excluded.  
 (2) Preliminary estimates based on return from samples of 742 selected Montana establishments.  
 (3) Figures previously released have been revised on return from 1,062 such establishments.  
 (4) Includes fabricated metal products, machinery except electrical, furniture, stone and clay products.

(5) Includes apparel, chemicals, and miscellaneous manufacturing products.  
 (6) Includes commercial trade schools, auto repair services and garages, miscellaneous repair services and hand trades, motion pictures, amusements and recreation.

medical and health, law offices and professional services, non-profit membership organizations and business not otherwise classified.  
 (7) Same as (6) above. Also includes hotels, rooming houses, camps, personal services and mining.

## COMPARISON OF BASIC LABOR MARKET ACTIVITIES IN NOV., 1969 AND NOV., 1968

Employment Service Office	New Job Applicants				Jobseekers In File				Job Placements								UI Claims*	
	Nov. 1969		Nov. 1968		Nov. 1969		Nov. 1968		Nov. 1969				Nov. 1968				Wk. 11-28	
	Tot.	Vet.	Tot.	Vet.	Tot.	Vet.	Tot.	Vet.	Ind.	Ag.	Tot.	Vet.	Ind.	Ag.	Tot.	Vet.	1969	1968
Anaconda	141	49	119	49	311	74	339	101	78	4	82	30	69	13	82	35	105	104
Billings	640	135	498	177	1,316	454	1,159	413	534	102	636	282	516	168	684	251	672	503
Bozeman	233	58	229	47	304	77	261	58	177	15	192	53	142	46	188	38	114	116
Butte	319	94	228	60	890	225	811	210	101	---	101	37	34	3	37	7	303	362
Cut Bank	89	26	93	24	487	159	382	118	36	3	39	17	35	12	47	19	107	73
Dillon	57	22	46	18	122	36	123	28	30	23	53	32	37	23	60	27	43	30
Glasgow	48	7	52	15	82	29	139	37	79	7	86	15	51	6	57	14	55	94
Glenlivet	65	18	72	20	59	13	77	24	95	15	110	33	69	3	72	16	21	31
Great Falls	589	161	491	118	1,532	392	1,336	329	386	59	445	152	235	55	290	79	522	508
Hamilton	99	31	55	20	260	83	133	50	49	7	56	12	31	12	43	16	140	90
Havre	165	35	114	20	236	48	155	60	90	14	104	39	62	25	87	18	98	101
Helena	245	69	258	66	625	172	562	135	153	24	177	67	103	14	117	29	162	177
Kalispell	249	82	220	69	703	224	819	269	180	20	200	70	127	20	147	42	494	453
Lewistown	72	21	64	22	139	47	108	35	58	71	129	32	44	50	94	30	69	68
Libby	175	65	282	112	465	150	488	170	44	2	48	17	81	---	81	9	355	310
Livingston	72	18	50	7	218	39	171	46	80	11	91	7	80	17	97	20	141	123
Miles City	123	27	63	22	162	37	105	24	77	23	100	33	61	32	93	35	53	36
Missoula	735	181	514	174	1,591	494	1,277	388	273	20	293	82	225	32	257	94	445	339
Polson	62	24	64	20	204	79	128	41	22	6	28	14	46	2	48	20	148	80
Shelby	47	12	43	11	105	36	96	30	23	5	28	7	35	17	52	14	68	29
Sidney	64	10	44	8	84	16	79	13	47	17	64	11	51	23	74	21	26	24
Thom. Falls	28	9	18	10	86	27	70	23	13	---	13	9	24	1	25	10	61	59
Wolf Point	43	16	38	7	129	39	93	26	26	9	35	14	15	14	29	3	45	44
Billings YOC	240	13	227	17	549	27	547	33	138	3	141	9	132	7	139	8	---	---
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>4,600</b>	<b>1,183</b>	<b>3,882</b>	<b>1,113</b>	<b>10,659</b>	<b>2,975</b>	<b>9,458</b>	<b>2,659</b>	<b>2,789</b>	<b>460</b>	<b>3,249</b>	<b>1,074</b>	<b>2,305</b>	<b>595</b>	<b>2,900</b>	<b>855</b>	<b>4,245</b>	<b>3,754</b>

\*Includes 439 claims of the Fed. U.C. Program 412 same a year ago.

## AVERAGE HOURS AND EARNINGS IN SELECTED MONTANA INDUSTRIES

(Produced in co-operation with United States Bureau of Labor Statistics)  
(Hours and earnings data exclude administrative and salaried personnel)

INDUSTRY	Average Weekly Earnings			Average Weekly Hours			Average Hourly Earnings		
	Nov. (1) 1969	Oct. (2) 1969	Nov. 1968	Nov. (1) 1969	Oct. (2) 1969	Nov. 1968	Nov. (1) 1969	Oct. (2) 1969	Nov. 1968
All Manufacturing	\$140.05	\$139.55	\$136.29	39.9	40.1	41.3	\$3.51	\$3.48	\$3.36
Durable Goods	139.84	139.09	136.69	40.3	40.2	41.8	3.47	3.46	3.27
Primary Metals	137.02	136.27	132.60	40.9	40.8	40.8	3.35	3.34	3.25
Nondurable Goods	141.23	140.49	138.38	38.8	39.8	40.7	3.64	3.53	3.40
Food and Kindred Products	127.89	128.29	128.10	40.6	42.2	42.0	3.15	3.04	3.05
All Mining	158.91	158.54	142.35	43.3	43.2	41.5	3.67	3.67	3.43
Metal Mining	160.73	160.73	135.66	44.4	44.4	39.9	3.62	3.62	3.40
Communications and Utilities	139.44	139.32	133.39	40.3	40.5	40.7	3.46	3.44	3.31

(1) Preliminary estimates. (2) Figures previously released have been revised on more complete returns.

EMPLOYMENT SECURITY  
COMMISSION OF MONTANAESC BUILDING  
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